DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

VOL. VII NO. 23 November 21st 1958 Price: 15 Pf., 5c., 3d.

BERLIN PLANS

Mr K. Makes New Discussion Bid

The Soviet Union will soon table proposals for a revision of the status of Berlin, Prime Minister Nikita Khrushov announced in Moscow on November 10th. The proposals will be submitted to the countries which took part in the war-time coalition against nazi Germany and fascist Italy, he stated.

The question of renewed discussions on the status of Berlin was first raised by Prime Minister Khrushchov in a speech in Moscow on November 11th which attracted world-wide attention. In this speech, the main points of which are given on the next page, the Soviet Prime Minister pointed out that the Western powers had ignored or breached the terms of the Potsdam Agreement on nearly all main points. Only one point was left, and that was the agreement, confirmed at the Potsdam Conference, by which Berlin was given a special Four-Power status.

"The Western Powers would like to prolong their privileges for all time, although they themselves long ago abolished the legal basis upon which their presence in Berlin was founded" Mr Khrushchov said.

(cont. on next page)

SCANDAL IN BONN

By the Editor

An odd scandal has been shaking the West German capital of Bonn for the past few days, a scandal which is only conceivable in the hothouse atmosphere of unreality which pervades there.

Here, quite shortly, is the story: at the end of October, Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, mentioned casually in the course of a speech that a Minister of the West German Government had, in the recent past, had talks with a representative of the Democratic Republic. In the course of these talks, Mr Ulbricht said, the Bonn Minister had made some proposals about the possibility of forming a confederation of the two existing German states.

Mr Ulbricht's casual aside caused an uproar in the West German capital. Indignantly, West German Government spokesmen proclaimed that Bonn Ministers could never, never, never, have had talks with any representatives from Democratic Germany. Anyway, the German Democratic Republic just does not exist, so the whole thing was unthinkable.

The uproar had just begun to die down when Mr Ulbricht, in reply to a question at a public meeting, said that he was not at liberty to disclose the name of the Bonn Minister concerned, but that the meeting to which he had referred had taken place on October 20th 1956.

Journalists in Bonn, hastily thumbing through the files of old newspapers, came up with the fact that Dr Fritz Schaeffer, a member of Dr Adenauer's party, and at that time Minister of Finance, had been in Berlin on the date in question. Dr Schaeffer, cornered by the journalists, finally admitted that he had had conversations on that date, but not with a representative of the German Dremocratic Republic. He had visited the Soviet Embassy in East Berlin in order to discuss the German question with the ambassador, he stated, and Dr Adenauer had known all about it.

Next day the full story came out: Vincenz Mueller, prominent member of the National Democratic Party of the Democratic Republic, disclosed that he had had a long talk with Dr Schaeffer in his apartment in East Berlin on October 20th 1956. At the time of the meeting Mr Mueller had been a Deputy Minister in the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

And so, finally, the West German Government had to admit the truth of the claim. A West German Minister, with the knowledge of Dr Adenauer, had visited East Berlin, and had had conversations on the burning subject of German unity with a representative of the "non-existent" government of the Democratic Republic.

It is typical of the unreal atmosphere created by the Bonn Government that this meeting between a West German Minister and an East German Minister, which incidentally produced no results, should result in a scandal. Under any other circumstances than the cold war atmosphere carefully preserved by Bonn it would seem the most natural thing in the world that representatives of two governments which have so many problems to solve should get together in informal talks in an attempt to sound out the ground.

But the incident has shown once again, and very clearly, that the only way in which any progress can be made in settling the German problem is for Germans from East and West to sit down together and work things out; and Dr Adenauer can no longer pretend that the German Democratic Republic does not exist — after all one of his own ministers has had talks with a representative of the "non-existent" state.

He announced that the Soviet Union, for its part, would transfer to the sovereign German Democratic Republic those functions in Berlin still carried out by Soviet organs. The Western Powers could then negotiate with the German Democratic Republic if they were interested in any questions affecting Berlin.

Mr Khrushchov's announcement led to a spate of speculation in western newspapers about alleged plans for a "new blockade of Berlin", and hundreds of western journalists hurried to the city, which they were surprised to find calm and normal.

On November 12th Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic told 300 German and foreign journalists at a press conference in Berlin that the Berlin problem was only a part of the general problem of peace in Europe. He reiterated the demand frequently made by the Government of Democratic Germany for the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, and an agreement on the withdrawal of all foreign troops from both East and West Germany.

Points from Prime Minister Grotewohl's press conference statement are given on page 184, and a summary of some of the main points of the Potsdam Agreement, and how they have been complied with in East and West on page 183.

What Mr K. Really Said

The imperialists have converted the German question into a constant source of international tention. The ruling circles of West Germany are doing all they can to whip up interest in a war against the German Democratic Republic, Poland and all socialist countries.

We should like to warn the leaders of the German Federal Republic. The path which is being taken at present by West Germany is dangerous for peace in Europe and can be fatal for West Germany itself. In his time Hitler used all methods to create a war psychosis when he was preparing to attack the Soviet Union: but everybody knows how that ended. It is easy to imagine the fate of anybody who attempted to launch a new aggression against the socialist states. Chancellor Adenauer and War Minister Strauss can make as many speeches as they like, but this will not change the balance of power in favour of imperialism. If West Germany were to march against the east it would mean a march to death.

However much the militarists may try they cannot change the balance of forces in their favour. They should not forget the geographical position of West Germany: with the weapons of today West Germany would not survive for a single day in a modern war.

We do not want a new military conflict. It would be fatal for West Germany and would mean great suffering for the peoples of other countries.

It would be more sensible for the West German politicians to assess the situation more soberly and to refrain from unleashing warlike feelings.

At present there is much talk in the western press about the idea that the government of the German Federal Republic will propose a Four-Power conference which should solve the problem of re-uniting Germany without consulting the Germans. There is no legal basis for such a proposal. Nobody has the right to intervene in internal affairs and to impose their will upon the German Democratic Republic.

We have full understanding for the quite natural longing of the German people for the restoration of national unity. However, the German militarists and their American patrons are utilising these genuine national feelings for aims which have nothing to do with German reunification or European peace.

If the West German government really wanted reunification then it would take the opportunity of establishing contacts with the government of the German Democratic Republic... The German question can only be solved by the German people themselves by means of bringing the two existent states together.

A peace treaty with Germany presents quite a different problem. This is in fact a task which must be solved in the main by the Four Powers, in cooperation with German representatives. The signature of a peace treaty with Germany would contribute to a normalisation of the entire situation in Germany and in Europe as a whole. The Soviet Union continues to propose that this question should be dealt with without delay.

If we speak of the responsibilities of the Four Powers concerning Germany then we must speak of the responsibilities which arise from the Potsdam Agreement.

Let us recall the chief responsibilities accepted by the powers which signed the Potsdam Agreement. The powers which belonged to the anti-Hitler coalition pledged themselves to extirpate German militarism, to insure that it could not be revived, and to take other measures to assure that Germany would never again threaten her neighbours or the peace of the world.

An important paragraph of the Potsdam Agreement pledged the powers to eliminate the concentration of economic power exemplified by the cartels, trusts and other monopolistic arrangements in the German economy; that is to say, all those forces which brought Hitler to power and which supported and financed his military adventures.

That is the core of the agreement concluded in Potsdam in 1945. What is the situation today, thirteen years later?

Nobody can deny that the Soviet Union has complied with this agreement and that it has been carried out in the eastern part of Germany, in the German Democratic Republic. What is the situation in West Germany, the part of Germany for which the three Western powers were responsible?

We must state quite frankly that militarism in West Germany has not only not been extirpated but that, on the contrary, it is raising its head ever higher... The government of the German Federal Republic, with

(cont. on page 184)

Lord Beaverbrook Has a Bright Idea

"Now is the time to get all foreign troops out of Berlin ... Nothing is to be gained by staying. If trouble follows, let the West Germans and the East Germans sort it out between them.

"Maybe they will find the path to German reunification in that way."

"Daily Express", London, November 11th 1958

WHO TORE UP POTSDAM PACT?

Potsdam Agreement, para 3 (i): "All German land, naval and air forces ... including the General Staff ... war veterans organisations ... shall be completely and finally abolished in such manner as permanently to prevent the revival or re-organisation of German militarism or nazism ..."

In West Germany the conscript German Wehrmacht has been revived, it is today stronger than the armed forces of Britain or France, and is being expanded. It is commanded exclusively by generals appointed by Hitler, and is equipped with rocket weapons capable of carrying atomic warheads. More than 1000 war veterans organisations exist openly, including many organisations of SS veterans.

In East Germany volunteer defence forces have been raised under the threat of West German aggression. All key command posts are held by veteran anti-fascists, veterans of the International Brigades and men who suffered in nazi concentration camps. The defence forces have already been sharply cut as a contribution to the relaxation of tension. The defence forces have no atomic weapons.

Potsdam Agreement, para 6: "All members of the Nazi party who have been more than nominal participants in its activities ... shall be removed from public and semi-public office ...

In West Germany nine of the eighteen cabinet ministers were active nazi supporters. Minister of the Interior Schroeder, in charge of all police forces, was a member of Hitler's storm troops; Refugee Minister Theodor Oberlaender was a storm troop officer; State Secretary Hans Globke drafted Hitlers anti-Semitic Nuremberg Laws. 85% of the high officials of the Foreign Ministry are former nazi party members — a higher proportion than under Hitler.

In East Germany all cabinet ministers were active opponents of nazism. Only former nazis who have shown by their deeds that they have reformed are allowed to occupy important positions.

Potsdam Agreement, para 7: "German education shall be so controlled as completely to eliminate Nazi and militarist doctrines ..."

In West Germany most history books used in the schools ignore or gloss over nazi crimes. A high proportion of school teachers are unreformed old nazis: the Chief of Staff of Hitler's Storm Troops is today teaching in an elementary school.

In East Germany nazi and militarist doctrines have been completely eradicated from the schools, and school text books give full details of the nazi terror, the gassing of millions of Jews, etc.

Potsdam Agreement, para 8: "The judicial system will be reorganised in accordance with the principles of democracy ..."

In West Germany at least 600 judges and public prosecutors responsible for death sentences on opponents of nazism are back in their old posts: many dozens of these men are named in Allied war criminal lists.

In East Germany the judicial system has been completely and permanently purged of nazi supporters.

Potsdam Agreement, para 12: "... the German economy shall be decentralised for the purpose of eliminating the present excessive concentration of economic power as exemplified in particular by cartels, syndicates, trusts, and other monopolistic arrangements."

In West Germany the concentration of industry has reached heights never before experienced: 94% of steel production and 95% of power production is in the hands of private monopolies. Arms kings like Krupp and Flick, who built Hitler's war machine, have reconstructed their industrial empires.

In East Germany practically all heavy industry has been socialised, and removed permanently from the hands of the cannon kings.

the agreement of the countries belonging to NATO, has built up an army which the German militarists plan to make stronger than the armies of Britain and France... The German militarists are being given atomic weapons with the blessing of the western powers, in particular the USA.

In the economic field too, West Germany is at the throat of its western European allies. In 1954, for instance, the German Federal Republic produced 24.5 million tons of steel; in the same year Britain produced 22 million tons and France only about 14 million tons. The financial situation in West Germany is more favourable today than that of Britain or France. According to official statistics West Germany had reserves of gold and valuta amounting to more than 5600 million dollars at the end of 1957. Britain had reserves of 2370 million dollars and France 775 million dollars. All these economic resources of West Germany are placed at the service of resurgent German imperialism.

What is left, then, of the Potsdam Agreement? Practically only one thing is left: the so-called Four-Power status of Berlin, the situation by which the three western powers have the chance of running things in West Berlin and converting this part of the city, the capital of the GDR, into a sort of country within a country. They utilise this state of affairs to organise from West Berlin underground activities directed against the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union, and other member states of the Warsaw Treaty. In addition, they enjoy the right to unhindered transit between West Berlin and West Germany through the German Democratic Republic, which they do not wish to recognise.

One must ask oneself who benefits from this situation and why do the USA, Britain and France not break this part of the Four-Power Agreement also? It is quite clear that they cling to this part of the Potsdam Agreement because the agreement on Berlin is only of advantage to the Western Powers. The Western Powers would naturally like to prolong such "allied" privileges for all time, although they themselves long ago abolished the legal basis upon which their presence in Berlin was founded.

Has not the time now come for us to draw the consequences, now that the most important points of the Potsdam Agreement have been nullified?

Has not the time now come to revise our attitude towards this part of the Potsdam Agreement and to relinquish it?

Obviously the time has come for the powers which signed the Potsdam Agreement to abandon the remnants of the occupation regime in Berlin, thus making it possible to normalise the situation in the capital of the German Democratic Republic. The Soviet Union, for its part, will transfer to the sovereign German Democratic Republic those functions in Berlin which are still carried out by Soviet organs. I believe that this would be the right course. The USA, France and Britain should regularise their relations with the German Democratic Republic and should negotiate with the German Democratic Republic if they are interested in any questions affecting Berlin.

The Soviet Union will fulfil all responsibilities arising from its alliance with the German Democratic Republic, that is to say, all responsibilities arising from the Warsaw Treaty.

If any aggressive forces should take action against the German Democratic Republic we shall regard this as an act against the Soviet Union and against all signatories of the Warsaw Treaty. We shall defend the German Democratic Republic, and this will mean the defence of the basic interests of the Soviet Union, the entire socialist camp, and peace in the whole world.

If the government of the German Federal Republic wishes to develop really good relations with the Soviet Union it must abandon once and for all the hope that we shall cease to support the German Democratic Republic.

"Getting Out of Blind Alley" — Premier Grotewohl

Here are some of the main points made by Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, at a press conference held in East Berlin on November 12th:

"Khrushchov's speech was an event of great political importance. This speech has opened up new vistas, and presented the chance to get out of the blind alley in the German problem, the blind alley created by the completely false position adopted by West Germany on the question of a peace treaty.

"A peace treaty can only have a moral value and historic importance if it is concluded with the representatives of the entire German people. If we are able to conclude a peace treaty containing decisive stipulations on the military status of Germany, and the economic relations inside Germany, then we shall have created suitable conditions for the Germans themselves to reach agreement (on reunification).

"We do not want a second version of the Versailles Treaty, but an agreement based upon the spirit of mutual understanding; and to achieve this, the Germans themselves will have to participate in working out the treaty."

Prime Minister Grotewohl then turned to the question of the withdrawal of foreign troops from Germany, and continued: "I must declare quite openly that we believe that the presence of foreign troops in Germany, wherever they may come from, is an undesirable state of affairs; we should be happy if this state of affairs could be ended as soon as possible ...

"We welcome the new initiative undertaken by the Polish Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki in the question of an atom-free zone in Europe... This accords quite fully with our own proposals. We shall give our support to all proposals which give even the very smallest support to the creation of such a zone."

Referring to the Berlin problem, Otto Grotewohl emphasised that this was only a part of the general problem of peace and understanding. "We naturally welcome Khrushchov's point of view that the western powers, after breaching the Potsdam Agreement, have no further right to maintain their special status in West Berlin.

"We do not regard Berlin as two parts: we see the entire Berlin population. When the measures suggested in the Khrushov speech are developed, then we for our part are ready to accept the task of supplying the whole of Berlin from the German Democratic Republic."

White Book Warns of Aggression

A White Book giving details of the aggressive policy of the West German Federal Republic has been presented by the Government of the German Democratic Republic to the governments of more than sixty states in all parts of the world.

The white book and an accompanying memorandum were handed over on November 13th. Copies of the documents were presented to the world press at press conferences held in East Berlin, Prague and Moscow.

The memorandum, copies of which will be dispatched shortly to all postal subscribers to GERMAN REPORT, summarises the present situation in West Germany. It gives examples of the return to power of industrialists, politicians and militarists who collaborated with Hitler; surveys the present state of rearmament in West Germany; and gives details of the way in which West Germany has opposed German reunification and a peaceful settlement in Europe. It concludes with these words:

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic expresses the hope that this Memorandum might help to draw the attention of the governments and peoples all over the world to the serious situation in Europe and to bring them together against this danger."

(For further details of the White Book, and how you can get a copy of the English edition, see below.)

"DEAL WITH E. GERMANY" — London "Economist"

"... As the arms pile up on either side of the Elbe, the danger grows that they may go off. And the longer the division of Germany continues the deeper it becomes, and the more difficult an eventual reunion ...

"In his talk with Mr Lippmann Mr Khrushchov made it clear that Russia would not contemplate political deals that would alter the basic balance of power in the world ...

German reunification, and indeed any European political and military settlement, will only be achieved by a process that does preserve this balance. **Western policy would do well to think about such a solution, instead of using the German question simply as a stick to beat Russia with ...**

"Even the Russian insistence on the status of the east German regime should be handled more intelligently. By digging in on the exclusive claims of Bonn, and treating the east German regime to a boycott pure and simple, the West not only makes it easy for Herr Ulbricht to maintain a position of intransigence; it impales itself on Berlin like a capon on a spit, appetising and incapable of movement. Thus Mr Khrushchov can create alarm and confusion among the western governments whenever he chooses ... by talking of Russia 'giving up the remnants of the occupation regime' and handing over its remaining vestigial functions to Herr Ulbricht. **If and when he does that the western powers will have no alternative but to deal with the east German government as they would with any other de facto government ...**

"Mr Khrushchov's latest fusillade of speeches may even do some good if it stimulates the western powers into contemplating a reappraisal of their German policy. In doing so they need not, and should not, lower their guard. **But the objections to an internal German negotiation, and even to a study of confederation as a possible framework for German unity, are not as solid as they have been made to look ...** Germany will never be reunited at all unless its eastern neighbours can be convinced that the new united state could be, not a military spearhead of the west, but a stabilising elemenet in the balance of all Europe."

"Economist", London, November 15th

White Book Offer

The English adition of the "White Book on the Aggressive Policy of the German Federal Republic" will be published shortly.

The White Book, a volume of 160 pages, deals in sober terms with the following subjects:

- **Atomic Weapons for West Germany**
- **Steps Taken Since 1950 to Restore German Militarism**
- **West German Demands for Frontier Revision**
- **The Forces which Oppose German Reunification**
- **The Peace Policy of Democratic Germany**

If you would like a free copy of this volume, fill in the form on the right. Your copy will be dispatched as soon as the English edition comes off the press.

(This offer does not apply to readers in the German Democratic Republic)

To: DGR, 167 Friedrichstrasse, Berlin

Please send me a copy of the White Book

Name

Address

(Block letters please!)

A CITY COUNCILLOR

By Jeanne Stern

Gerda Wenzel grew up not far from the Warsaw Bridge, amongst railway lines and factory chimneys, to the sound of whistling engines and whining sirens — a true child of Berlin. Her father drove a horse van.

Gerda was born in the middle of World War One and when her father came back from the front he soon saw where his real enemies were and how he should fight against them. He joined the Communist Party and later on he often took his little daughter with him to meetings, to hear Erich Weinert or Ernst Thaelmann speak. The victory of the revolution in Russia encouraged him in the belief that the workers would one day take over power in Germany too, and he sacrificed much for himself so as to let his gifted daughter stay longer in school. He wanted her to learn something worth while.

Gerda had dreamed of studying chemistry, but her father fell ill and she had to leave school when she was sixteen. Then she wanted to be a landscape gardener, but although her parents moved right out to Marienfelde, people soon found out that her father was an old communist, and no-one would take her on for training.

There was nothing left for her to do but go into a factory, where she remained for six years. She got married very young. "We were almost children — he twenty and I nineteen," she said. "We were in love, but we did not understand each other at all. He joined the Nazi party and became a storm trooper. I had a miserable feeling that we were drifting further and further apart." But they already had two children, and for their sakes she tried desperately to keep their marriage going as long as possible.

Gerda's father died in 1939. The war broke out. In her grief she thought again of all her father had taught her earlier. But everything seemed hopeless .... She retreated into her shell and thought of nothing but her two little sons. She was evacuated to East Prussia, and there she saw how foreign workers and the Poles were ill-treated and put to work like slaves.

By the time she joined the stream of refugees on the road to Prenzlau in 1945 she had understood a great deal of what was going on. She determined to return to Berlin.

"Berlin was a mass of ruins" she said, "but it was still my Berlin".

By a strange chance her parents' old garden house was still standing and her mother had survived the bombing. The decent people, who wanted to build up a new and peaceable Germany out of the chaos left by the war and nazi rule, began to stir again. They knocked on people's doors — Gerda's too — and urged them to join in practical work.

Gerda was asked to set up and run a kindergarten in an undamaged nunnery. She had to look after eighty children. With a few courageous helpers, she went round with a hand-cart and hunted up clothes, and all the things the children needed to keep alive. And at night she discussed with her old communist friends all those problems which were still not clear to her. She thirstily gulped down pamphlets, books, newpapers; and when she felt she had really grasped everything she joined the Communist Party.

In spite of hunger, cold and worry, Gerda looks back on that wretched winter as a lucky time in her life. "I had not found myself — had only half lived before that", she said.

In 1946 she took a short teachers' training course and then began teaching in a school in Neukoelln, in West Berlin.... In spite of her household duties — she had in the meantime married again and had a third child — Gerda attended a political training course during the school holidays and in 1949 she became chairman of the Tempelhof district women's democratic federation.

In the spring of 1950 she was arrested for making propaganda for peace in a West Berlin cigarette factory. Widespread protest let to her release, but she was dismissed from the education department. So she took this opportunity to take a six months' political course. Gerda Wenzel then worked for two years as Berlin Secretary of the German Women's Democratic Federation. This was an honour, but she wanted to go back to teaching and was delighted when, in 1953, she was appointed headmistress, first in a school in Buch and then in a Pankow grammar school.

She knows how important a good example is. While she was still working in West Berlin she had answered a call to the women in her district to demonstrate for peace with their children in front of the Osram Works. Frau Wenzel went with her two year-old son in his push-chair. There was nobody there when she reached their meeting place; but some women were walking along neighbouring streets with their prams. Gerda thought perhaps they simply could not pluck up the necessary courage, so she pulled out her placard on which she had printed "Peace" in bold letters and began walking up and down. She had not gone twenty paces before she heard the squeaking of pram wheels behind her and in a quarter of an hour a hundred women had joined the demonstration.

Gerda Wenzel has been a member of the Berlin city council for four years now, and she is also chairman of the Standing Commitee for Education as well. She has two special interests — helping workers' children and helping working mothers, for she remembers how hard it was for her to get an education in the old days when there was no-one there to help her; and she knows now how much help working mothers need in looking after their homes and children after work.

(from "Berliner Zeitung", 31st October 1958)

Automated Furnace

The first fully automatic furnace charging complex, which controls the whole work of furnace burdening and top charging, went into operation at the nationally-owned West Iron Works in Calbe at the end of October.

A total of 181 workers have been made available for other work by the process of automation. The central control mechanism automatically controls 350 separate operations, and ensures that all furnaces work steadily at maximal capacity and efficiency. The entire complicated machine was constructed by socialist factories of the German Democratic Republic.

Doctor's Degree for DuBois

American Negro leader Dr William DuBois was awarded an honorary doctor's degree by the Humboldt University, East Berlin, on November 3rd.

Dr DuBois, who is ninety, was last in Berlin in 1894, when he studied at the university.

Big Election Turnout

Almost 99 % of the electorate in the German Democratic Republic went to the polls on Sunday to record their votes in the general elections to the People's Chamber, the parliament of the Democratic Republic.

The voting constituted the final act of confirmation of a coalition list of candidates drawn up by the five parties, the trade unions and other organisations which are united in the National Front. In the weeks preceding the elections the candidates were introduced, cross-questioned and sometimes rejected at thousands of meetings in all parts of the Republic.

Here are the provisional results of the election announced on November 17th:

Total electorate: 11,839,217
Total votes cast: 11,707,715
Votes for National Front candidates: 99.87 %
Invalid papers: 0.13 %

Here for comparison are the figures for the two previous general elections in the German Democratic Republic:

1950
Total electorate: 12,331,905
Total votes cast: 12,139,932
Votes for National Front candidates: 12,088,745
Invalid papers and votes against National Front: 51,187

1954
Total electorate: 12,085,380
Total votes cast: 11,892,849
Votes for National Front candidates: 11,828,877
Invalid papers and votes against National Front: 63,972

MAKING SHOPPING EASIER

The organisation of retail trade in the German Democratic Republic has not kept pace with the rising production of consumer goods, and rapid steps will have to be taken to improve the situation, the Politbureau of the Socialist Unity Party declared in a special communique on November 4th.

The communique pointed out that the supply of consumer goods will be 25 % higher than the present figure by 1960, and double the present figure by 1965. "This demands the introduction of new forms and methods in retail trade" the communique said.

Here are some of the main points made by the announcement:

1. A stop must be put to the present tendency for some factories to put up the prices of their products by the addition of "fashionable touches", though they do not cost any more to produce.

2. The establishment of self-service stores of all sorts must be greatly speeded up.

3. Shops must be open early in the morning and late in the evening, so that working people can do their shopping conveniently. Housewives and pensioners should be encouraged to do part-time work as shop assistants to overcome the lack of full-time sales personnel.

4. The network of cooperative stores in the villages should be greatly extended to ensure better shopping facilities for country people.

5. Full use must be made of the special knowledge and capacities of the 166,000 private shop keepers, who play a large part in the retail trade network.

Airborne Farming Starts

It only costs half as much to spread fertiliser on the fields if you use a plane to do the job. This is the discovery that has helped many farm cooperatives in Democratic Germany to save time, money and manpower this year.

First tests in the use of aircraft for fertilising work and pest control were made in 1956, and this year a total of about 170,000 acres were treated with fertiliser from the air by a small group of light planes.

The planes, of Soviet and Czechoslovak construction, piloted by pilots of the German Lufthansa, can carry a load of about 800 lbs of granular fertiliser which they spread in under five minutes over an area of about one acre. One plane can treat up to 100 acres per day.

Picture Paper Offer

Two happy youngsters who live in one of the new housing projects in the German Democratic Republic form the subject for the cover of the latest issue of "GDR Review".

The contents of this issue include illustrated articles on housing, winter sports, a popular TV programme, and many other subjects.

A free trial copy of the magazine, and information on how to subscribe, will be sent on application to:

GDR Review
Verlag Zeit im Bild
Bergmannstrasse 46
Dresden A 19
German Democratic Republic

Production Up Again

Industrial production in Democratic Germany this year is running 11% higher than in 1957, it was officially disclosed in Berlin. In the first nine months of the current year plan targets were over-fulfilled in almost all branches of the economy. These facts were given in the official economic report for January-September 1958, published in Berlin on November 14th.

In the current year there have been particularly big increases in the production of long lasting consumer goods. Here are some of the figures for production in the first nine months of 1958, with the figures for 1957 in brackets:

TV sets 129,164 (70,622)
Refrigerators 37,705 (16,133)
Motor scooters 15,462 (12,240)
Cars 27,706 (25,198)
Toys 97 million marks (76 million)
Perlon stockings 24 million pair (20 million)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The date November 9th has, by some coincidence, played an important part in recent German history, and the date was marked this year by various celebrations in the two German states.

Let us start with the date November 9th 1918. This is one of the few dates in modern history to which decent Germans can look back with pride, for it marks the day on which the German workers overthrew the Kaiser, and brought the butchery of the First World War to an end.

Veterans Honoured

The 40th anniversary of this date was marked by celebrations throughout the German Democratic Republic, and ceremonies at which some 8000 veterans of the German working class movement were decorated with a medal specially struck for the occasion. The men and women who received this medal have every reason to be proud of it, for they are the people who overthrew German imperialism in 1918, and who have survived, through Hitler's concentration camps, to take part in the construction of socialism in the German Democratic Republic. They include sailors of the Imperial Fleet who drew the furnaces at the beginning of November 1918, and raised the Red Flag on their ships to signal the beginning of the revolution; workers in uniform who sacked their officers and established workers' and soldiers' councils throughout the length and breadth of Germany; and workers who streamed from their factories to cement the triumph of the revolution.

Kaiser Went...

They wanted to establish a socialist Germany, and if they had succeeded the whole history of the intervening 40 years would have been enormously different. But for a whole series of reasons, which it would take much too long to go into here, the revolution never got past the initial stages. The Kaiser went, but the generals remained, and the young German revolution was drowned in blood. But this makes a good opportunity for recalling that it was not the labour movements of Britain or France which ended World War One. It was the workers of Germany. And the politicians and generals of Britain, France and the United States have a fair share of the blame for putting the German generals back into power: and learning nothing by experience they have done it again in West Germany today.

Now let us pass on to the second anniversary which was commemorated on November 9th. This was the 35th anniversary of Hitler's "Beer-Hall Putsch" in Munich in 1923. It failed, since Adolf Hitler had not at that time won the support of the big industrialists who later helped him into the saddle: in 1923 Hitler was so little known in the political world, even inside Germany, that even the pedantically correct "Times" of London reported a putsch in Munich led by a certain "Herr Hittler". Needless to say, this anniversary was not celebrated in the German Democratic Republic, and even in West Germany only a few old Hitler supporters who are too stupid to have got on the Adenauer bandwaggon rallied to recall the date.

...Generals Remain

But perhaps General Adolf Heusinger, Inspector General of the West German Wehrmacht, raised his glass in private on this date. In his autobiography "Befehl im Widerstreit", published in West Germany in 1950, Heusinger records that he did not take part in Hitler's first attempt to seize power. He explains his non-participation by stating that although he agreed with the aims of the Putsch, he did not believe it would be successful.

The third anniversary which fell on November 9th was the anniversary of that black day in 1938 when the nazis really got down in earnest to the job of exterminating the Jews. On this date, according to nazi documents discovered after the end of the war, 20,000 Jews were thrown into concentration camps, and 191 synagogues went up in flames. The storm troopers who did the job have almost all gone unpunished in West Germany: men like Dr Hans Globke who drafted the Nuremberg Laws, Hitler's anti-semitic legislation which paved the way for the "final solution of the Jewish problem," have high posts in Adenauer's government. Dr Globke himself is State Secretary in the West German Government.

• • •

In the past years, GERMAN REPORT has repeatedly noted how the men and women who fought against Hitler, and were persecuted by Hitler, have the greatest difficulty in obtaining from the West German authorities the restitution sums to which they are legally entitled.

The same authorities find no difficulty in paying out huge sums in pensions and compensation to former leading nazis and nazi collaborators, however. Here is the latest example: during the war the Hitlerites managed to recruit a number of Belgian fascists to serve in special SS formations. In the confused months at the end of the war, these Belgian "SS legionaries" did not always get their thirty pieces of nazi silver regularly.

SS Back Pay

Yes, you have guessed it. The West German Government, with eager-beaver determination to leave no stone unturned in its endeavour to do the right thing by these unpleasant traitors, is now dishing out their back pay. In its latest number the Belgian fascist sheet "Europe Réelle" publishes the following notice:

"All former legionaries who were stationed in Alfeld between November 1944 and April 1945, and those who belonged to SS battalions A and E 36 are requested to get in touch immediately with the secretariat of HIAG in order to collect their back pay."

HIAG, in case you do not know, is the abbreviation of the name of the "Mutual Aid Association of Former SS Members". It has its official headquarters in the West German city of Osnabrueck, and acts as the official agent of the West German Government in settling claims for back-pay on the part of the men who, amongst other crimes, murdered some six million Jews in cold blood.

Don't Let's Be Nasty

In the past I have occasionally asked for the cooperation of readers in fulfilling important and less important requests, and now the time has come once more. Can any reader supply me with the full text of Noel Coward's war-time ditty "Don't let's be nasty to the Germans"? The full text is needed, not just the words of the refrain. Many thanks in advance.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (204). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.